

Special Meeting – July 29, 2024

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, July 29, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. for a special meeting. All board members were present.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Gavin Colvard, Sanitation Director to speak. Director Colvard thanked the board for their time and wanted to discuss the possible purchase of a tire grinder to cut costs at sanitation. Director Colvard stated that they travel to Concord, NC twice per week to dispose of our tires and if we grind the tires, they can be disposed of in the landfill which will save money on travel and disposal costs. Director Colvard estimated the savings of \$20,000.00 per year. Director Colvard stated that the tire grinder he has been reviewing costs around \$58,000.00 and he will get quotes of different sizes for the board review.
4. Director Colvard stated that the USFS (United States Forest Service) stated that they will write tickets for the littering if we put up signs on the fence. Director Colvard stated that there were sixty bags left outside the gates Sunday morning at the East Buffalo Site. Director Colvard stated that outside the gate belongs to USFS and we are responsible for everything inside the gates. Chairman Nelms asks if the signs had been ordered. Director Colvard stated that they have been ordered.
5. Director Colvard asks if the board is ready to move forward with the reopening of the Bear Creek Dumpster site. The board all agreed to have the fencing repaired and move forward.
6. Director Colvard asks if the board will issue citations for the illegal dumping. The board all agreed that the ordinance needed to be rewritten and enforced. Members of the public asks that signs be put up telling the public where to take their garbage when the other sites are closed. Commissioner Williams stated that most rentals have trash pickup service. Chairman Nelms stated that he did not know the answer other than the accommodation owners putting the address in their rental.
7. The board discussed the ordinance and the violations. The board discussed using cameras for tags to identify the people who are littering.
8. Commissioner Cody stated that Cherokee County charges \$75.00 per unit for sanitation but Graham County removed the fee from county residents. Commissioner Cody stated that a sheriff will not touch enforcement for garbage in Graham County.
9. The board discussed charges to be added to the ordinance. The board discussed contractors opening an account with the county for the tipping fee. The board must decide and stand behind the fees that are set and stand behind the ordinance. Commissioner Williams asks if the violation could be attached to the tag renewals. Attorney Coward stated that he did not think that could happen, but they can set a stiff penalty. The board discussed a yearly fee for all taxpayers. The board discussed who would be exempt, churches, etc.
10. The board all agreed that Attorney Coward would draft a new ordinance with violation terms that have teeth. The board agreed that sanitation employees can serve as citation officers. The board did want cameras installed that will photograph the car tags. The board discussed issuing stickers to county residents and charge per bag for non-residents.
11. The board requested that Attorney Coward work on the ordinance and they will proceed from there. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board